



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CAREX SYCHNOCEPHALA **MANY-HEADED SEDGE**

Many-headed Sedge is a grass-like perennial that grows in clumps without rhizomes and has slender stems that are 5-50 cm high. The lowest leaves are reduced to scales; the upper are flat and 1-4 mm wide. Flowers occur in 4-15 globose spikes clustered together at the top of the stem. The lower spikes are subtended by long, leaf-like bracts that greatly surpass the inflorescence. Inconspicuous male flowers are at the base of each spike. Pale green or tan perigynia are 5-7 mm long and ca. 1 mm wide and narrowly lance-shaped with a long beak and serrated margins. The pale, thin, lance-shaped scales have a green midvein and are ca. 1/2 the length of the perigynium that they subtend. Each perigynium has 2 stigmas and an achene that is lens-shaped. Fruit mature in July-August.

The combined characteristics of long, leaf-like lower bracts, and long, narrow perigynia distinguish this CAREX from all other species in our area.